The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

From *Tuesday August* 8. to *Thursday August* 10. 1710.

From my own Apartment, August 9.

A Noble Painter, who has an Ambition to draw an History-Piece, has desired of me to give him a Subject on which he may show the utmost Force of his Art and Genius. For this Purpose I have pitched upon that remarkable Incident between *Alexander the Great* and his Physician. This Prince, in the Midst of his Conquests in *Persia*, was seized by a violent Fever; and according to the Account we have of his *vast* Mind, his Thoughts were more employed about his Recovery, as it regarded the War, than as it concerned his own Life. He professed, a slow Method was worse than Death to him, because it was what he more dreaded, an Interruption of his Glory. He desired a dangerous, so it might be a speedy Remedy. During this Impatience of the King, it is well known that *Darius* had offered an immense Sum to any who should take away his Life. But *Philippus*, the most esteemed and most knowing of his Physicians, promised, that within Three Days Time he would prepare a Medicine for him which should restore him more expeditiously than could be imagined. Immediately after this Engagement, *Alexander* receives a Letter from the most considerable of his Captains, with Intelligence, That *Darius* had bribed *Philippus* to poison him. Every Circumstance imaginable favoured this Suspicion; but this Monarch, who did nothing but in an extraordinary Manner, concealed the Letter; and while the Medicine was preparing, spent all his Thoughts upon his Behaviour in this important Incident. From his long Soliloquy he came to this Resolution, "*Alexander* must not lie here alive to 'be oppressed by his Enemy. I will not believe 'my Physician guilty; or, I will perish rather by 'his Guilt, than my own Diffidence.

At the appointed Hour, *Philippus* enters with the Potion. One cannot but form to one's self on this Occasion the Encounter of their Eyes, the Resolution in those of the Patient, and the Benevolence in the Countenance of the Physician. The Hero raised himself in his Bed, and holding the Letter in one Hand, and the Potion in the other, drank the Medicine. It will exercise my Friend's Pencil and Brain to place this Action in its proper Beauty. A Prince observing the Features of a suspected Traytor, after having drank the Poison he offer'd him, is a Circumstance so full of Passion, that it will require the highest Strength of his Imagination to conceive it, much more to express it. But as Painting is Eloquence and Poetry in Mechanism, I shall raise his Idea's, by reading with him the finest Draughts of the Passions concerned in this Circumstance from the most excellent Poets and Orators. The Confidence which *Alexander* assumes from the Air of *Philippus*'s Face as he is reading his Accusation, and the generous Disdain which is to rise in the Features of a falsly accused Man, are principally to be regarded. In this Particular he must heighten his Thoughts, by reflecting, that he is not drawing only an innocent Man traduced, but a Man zealously affected to his Person and Safety, full of Resentment for being thought false. How shall we contrive to express the highest Admiration mingled with Disdain? How shall we in Strokes of a Pencil say, what *Philippus* did to his Prince on this Occasion? 'Sir, my Life never depended on yours more than 'it does now. Without knowing this Secret, I 'prepared the Potion, which you have taken as 'what concerned *Philippus* no less than *Alexander*; 'and there is nothing new in this Adventure, but 'that it makes me still more admire the Generosity 'and Confidence of my Master." *Alexander* took him by the Hand, and said, "*Philippus*, I am con-'fident you had rather I had any other Way to 'have manifested the Faith I have in you, than a 'Case which so nearly concerns me: And in Gra-'titude I now assure you, I am anxious for the 'Effect of your Medecine, more for your Sake 'than my own.

My Painter is employed by a Man of Sense and Wealth to furnish him a Gallery, and I shall join with my Friend in the Designing Part. It is the great Use of Pictures to raise in our Minds either agreeable Idea's of our absent Friends, or high Images of eminent Personages. But the latter Design is, methinks, carried on in a very improper Way: For to fill a Room full of Battle-Pieces, pompous Histories of Sieges, and a tall Hero alone in a Crowd of insignificant Figures about him, is of no Consequence to private Men. But to place before our Eyes great and illustrious Men in those Parts and Circumstances of Life wherein their Behaviour may have an Effect upon our Minds, as being such as we partake with them merely as they were Men: Such as these, I say, may be just and useful Ornaments of an elegant

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Apartment. In this Collection therefore that we are making, we will not have the Battles, but the Sentiments of *Alexander*. The Affair we were just now talking of, has Circumstances of the highest Nature, and yet their Grandeur has little to do with his Fortune. If by observing such a Piece as that of his taking a Bowl of Poison with so much Magnanimity, a Man, the next Time he has a Fit of Spleen, is less froward to his Friend or his Servants; thus far is some Improvement.

I have frequently thought, that if we had many Draughts which were Historical of certain Passions, and had the true Figure of the great Men we see transported by them, it would be of the most solid Advantage imaginable. To consider this mighty Man on one Occasion administer to the Wants of a poor Soldier, benumbed with Cold, with the greatest Humanity; at another, barbarously stabbing a faithful Officer: At one Time, so generously chast and virtuous as to give his Captive *Statira* her Liberty; at another, burning a Town at the Instigation of *Thais*. This Sort of Changes in the same Person are what would be more beneficial Lessons of Morality, than the several Revolutions in a great Man's Fortune. There are but One or Two in an Age to whom the pompous Incidents of his Life can be exemplary; but I or any Man may be as sick, as good-natur'd, as compassionate, and as angry, as *Alexander the Great*. My Purpose in all this Chat is, that so excellent a Furniture may not for the future have so Romantick a Turn, but allude to Incidents which come within the Fortunes of the ordinary Race of Men. I do not know but 'tis by the Force of this senseless Custom that People are drawn in Postures they would not for half they are worth be surprised in. The unparallelled Fierceness of some Rural Squires drawn in Red, or in Armour, who never dreamed to destroy any Thing above a Fox, is a common and ordinary Offence of this Kind. But I shall give an Account of our whole Gallery on another Occasion.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The Subscribers to the LUCUBRATIONS *in Octavo are desired to send to* Charles Lillie, *or* John Morphew, *any Names which have been omitted, or improperly inserted, the Second Volume being almost ready for Publication.*

Advertisements.

*** This Day is publish'd, Memoirs of the British Fleets and Squadrons in the Mediterranean, in 1708, and 1709. Wherein an Account is given of the Reduction of Sardinia, Minorca, the late Sieges of Port Mahon, Alicant, and Denia; with Descriptions of the most unfrequented Places touched by the Fleets; of the Court of Barcelona, their Majesties residing in it, and of our neighbouring Royal Allies their Majesties of Portugal. To which is annexed, a Cursory View of Naples, the Curiosities near Baiæ, and Cardinal Grimani's Reception of the Officers belonging to the British Fleet. Dedicated to the Right Hon. the Lord Orford. With a Map of the Mediterranean curiously engraved. By the Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Taubman, Chaplain in the Royal Navy. Printed for A. Collins at the Black-Boy, and John Pemberton at the Buck and Sun, against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet. Price bound 3 s.

*** New Musick this Day publish'd; The Monthly Mask of Vocal Musick, or the newest Songs made for the Theatres and other Occasions for July. Pr. 6 d. Song-Books lately published. The Bottle Companion, or Bacchanalian Club; being a Collection of Drinking Songs and Healths, consisting of Loyalty, Love, and good Fellowship; a Book of all the newest and choicest Catches for 3 and 4 Voices; a Collection of comical Songs, and Songs of Humour, by Mr. d'Urfey; a Collection of Scotch Songs; several Dialogues; and 2 and 3 Part Songs. All Printed for J. Walsh, Servant to Her Majesty, and P. Randall, at the Harp and Hautboy in Katherine-street near Somerset-House in the Strand, and J. Hare at the Golden Viol and Flute, Cornhil, near the Royal Exchange.

*** The Encomium, a Poem: Humbly inscribed to the Rt. Hon. the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, occasion'd chiefly by the Successes of the last Campaign, and his Lordship's Speech thereupon to his Grace the D. of Marlborough in the House of Lords, by Order of that illustrious Assembly. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where may be had Mr. Bayle's Miscellaneous Reflections, in 2 Vol. and his Philosophical Commentary, 2 Vol.

THis is to give Notice, That by the Hudson-Bay Company (at their House in Fenchurch-street) is kept an Office to raise or increase the Stock of such who serve an Apprenticeship, and also to raise a Stock to bind out young Persons, as Clerks or Apprentices. The Particulars will appear by the Proposals, which are given Gratis at the said Office, where Attendance is given from Ten a Clock in the Morning till One, and from Three until Six in the Afternoon.

BRandies to sell, at the Golden Anchor in Walbrook, the best old French Cogniac, at 12 s. per Gallon, Bourdeaux at 11, Spanish for 8 and 7 s. by no less Quantity than a Gallon. There's likewise a small Parcel of Irish Usquebaugh of the best Sort, which will be sold reasonably, either in Part or Whole. There's constant Attendance given.

AT Mrs Ogle's in Little Queen-street against Montague-House, are Tickets to be delivered out, at Six-pence each Ticket, for a Catalogue of Plate, and other valuable Goods, viz. a Tea-Kettle, Lamp, and Tea-Pot, Value 20 l. a Coffee-Pot, a Canister, Salvers, Tea-Spoons, Toothpick-Cases, Snuff Boxes, and other valuable Plate and Goods. The highest Prize 20 l. the lowest 5 s. 8000 Tickets, 202 Prizes. The first and last shall be entitled to a Gold Cypher Ring of 21 l. Price. Tickets may be had at Mr. Sedgwick's, Hair-Cutter, in the Strand; at Mr. Green's, Hatter, next Door to the Katharine-Wheel-Inn in the Borough of Southwark; and at Joe's Coffee-house in Hatton-Garden. To be drawn very speedily.

THese are to give Notice, That there is a Sale of Plate to be dispos'd of by Way of Lots, at Mrs. Dorrell's, Cap-maker, in High-Holborn, 3 Doors from the Cole-yard, where the Sixpenny Sale of Plate was drawn the first of August, viz. a large Set of Castors, a large Coffee-Pot, large Salvers, Porringers, large Snuff-Boxes and Spoons, with other valuable Plate, fine Holland, and Muslin in the Piece. Tickets to be delivered at the Place above-mentioned, at 12 d. each. To be drawn the 5th of September. Tickets to be had at Mr. Ball's, Linendraper, at the Black Lion in Drury-Lane.

*** Field's Bible, and all other Sorts and Sizes of Bibles and Common-Prayers, fit for Churches and Families, ruled or unruled, and in all sorts of Binding, viz. Right Shagreen, red and blue Turkey, Russia-Leather, &c. Mr. Sturt's Cuts, curiously engraven; with other Cuts, either for Bibles or Common Prayer Books; Preparations for the Sacrament and Devotions, bound with the Common-Prayer or single; Tate & Brady's new Psalms, with the new Supplement; Burket on the New Testament, in Folio, the 4th and last Edition; the Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, &c. Winchester Manual; a new British Spelling-Book; Young's Spelling-Book; and Dr. Williams and Lewis's Catechism, for the Use of Charity-Schools, by Wholesale or Retale, at reasonable Rates. Cases for Letters or Bills. Stains and Ink are likewise taken out of Books of Value, and Books neatly bound and gilt, by J. Hazard at the Golden Bible in Stationers-Court near the Hall within Ludgate.

AN Incomparable Beautifying Cream for the Face, Neck and Hands, takes away all Freckles, Spots, Pimples, Wrinkles, Roughness, Scurf, Morphew, Yellowness, Sun-burning, renders the Skin admirably Clear, Fair and Beautiful, has an excellent pretty Scent; is very safe and harmless, and vastly transcends all other Things; for it truly nourishes the Skin, making it instantly look Plump, Fresh, Smooth, and delicately Fair, though before Wrinkled and Discolour'd. Sold only at Mr. Lawrence's Toyshop at the Griffin the Corner of the Poultry near Cheapside, at 2 s. 6 d. a Gally-pot, with Directions. Beware of Counterfeits, this being the true Original.

THE Famous POWDER for the STONE, GRAVEL, and STRANGURY, that has perform'd so many remarkable Cures in those Cases, of which there are continued Instances. Certificates whereof, together with the Names and Places of Abode of many that have been reliev'd by it, too numerous to be inserted here, are to be seen at Mr. Rogers's, Bookseller in Fleetstreet. There are likewise several large Stones that it has brought away from divers Persons, to be seen at Mr. Aylmer's, Bookseller in Cornhil: At both which Places only it is to be sold, for 5 s. the Paper, which contains 3 Doses, with Directions. The Person who prepares it, is to be spoken with every Tuesday and Thursday, between 11 and 12, at Mr. Rogers's Shop above-mention'd.

THE Royal Beautifier, or the greatest Cosmetick in the World, being the most incomparable Thing in Nature for preserving and restoring a good Complection. It even to a Miracle fortifies the Skin against Wind and Sun, and makes such as are pale and wan look fresh and lively, and have a charming Countenance. It certainly takes away Freckles, Spots, Pimples, Scurf, Morphew, and Sun-burnings, and miraculously makes the Complection plump, fresh, smooth, and delicately fair, even to Admiration; it having met with great Applause amongst Persons of Quality and others, so that Persons daily resort from all Parts of the Town to fetch it. To prevent Counterfeits, it is only sold at Lemery's-Head at Charing-Cross, at 2 s. 6 d. per Pot, with Directions at large.